



State of Idaho

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

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C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER

Governor

GARY SPACKMAN

Director

July 17, 2012

City of Salmon
Attn: Mary Benton
200 Main St.
Salmon, ID 83467

RE: Water Right Permit 74-15043 and 74-15608

Dear Ms. Benton;

This letter is to inform you that I have completed my Field Examination Report, and have submitted water right permits 74-15043 and 74-15608 for Licensing. During my field examination, I found a couple of issues that will require immediate attention by the City of Salmon. These issues include the need to file a recreational storage application for permit for the pond used on the golf course under water right 74-15043 and the 1.2 to 1.5 additional acres of irrigation you have been irrigating under water right 74-15608. I have discussed these issues with you, but per our discussions, I felt it would be in your best interests if I sent a formal letter describing these issues.

In the filing of water right 74-15043, the City of Salmon requested the irrigation of 120 acres with a diversion rate of 3.56 cfs. With a diversion rate of 3.56 cfs, you were able to fill and empty a pond of 7.1 af within a 24 hour period, which consider part of the irrigation system according to Idaho Code. Unfortunately, you were only able to develop 68.5 acres with a diversion rate of 1.37 cfs. This limits the size of the pond that you are allowed to have as part of the irrigation system to 2.5 acre feet. According to my field examination, the volume of the pond is approximately 6.5 acre feet. If the water right was fully developed, then this pond would have been legal, however, since only a portion of the original permit will be licensed, the pond will need a water right to maintain its current volume capacity.

In the filing of water right 74-15608, the City of Salmon requested the irrigation of 2.5 acres. During my field exam I found that an additional 1.2 to 1.5 acres were being irrigated. The additional acres being irrigated were the lands west of the main Sacajawea Center compound. These are lands around the house and along the western border and the highway on the western side.

Fortunately, the water right used to mitigate 74-15043 provided 80 acres of irrigation mitigation. This water right is water right 74-644. Water right 74-15043 only used 68.5 acres of that mitigation right, therefore, there are an additional 11.5 acres that can be used to mitigate the additional pond volume required and the additional 1.5 acres of irrigation.

I recommend that you file the needed applications bring these two issues into compliance as soon as possible. Please don't hesitate to include this letter with the new applications for permit fillings. This letter should help to explain the current situation to Idaho Department of Water Resource staff that will be processing these new applications for permit. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Thank you for your patience.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Daniel A. Nelson", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Daniel A. Nelson
Staff Hydrologist
Idaho Department of Water Resources
Telephone # (208) 287-4856
Fax (208) 287-6700 (C/O Dan Nelson)